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MEMORANDUM

To: MPO Policy Committee

Date: October 8, 2009

From: CMAP Staff

Re: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Implementation

The following is a brief update of CMAP's assistance in coordination and implementation of selected non-transportation elements from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the region.

Regional ARRA Coordinating Council

The Regional ARRA Coordinating Council has been meeting monthly and working on the development of targeted strategies to assist in building initiatives that could maximize and leverage ARRA resources throughout the region. The group recently administered a survey to recipients of housing, workforce development, energy, and weatherization funds. The results of the survey will help inform the actions of this group. Examples of current initiatives the Council is supporting and assisting in the coordination of include: information sharing on specific ARRA programs, workforce development strategy development and collaboration, development of a regional energy efficiency system, and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) collaboration and implementation. Brief descriptions of the ARRA programs we are providing information on as well as evaluating the potential for collaboration and coordination are provided below:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants:

Thirty-nine municipalities and six counties in the region are eligible for formula grants from the newly created Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) program. Applications were due to the Department of Energy (DOE) on August 10th and awards have yet to be announced. The total eligible amount to northeastern Illinois local governments is more than \$76 million. The Council, and particularly the Center for Neighborhood Technology, is working with municipalities in the development of their strategies, encouraging projects with long-term impact, and coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions. The State of Illinois also submitted an application for EECBG funds; their proposal identified regional planning agencies as having a central role in the

allocation of these funds to local governments. This proposal has not yet been approved by DOE.

State Energy Plan:

On August 14th, the State of Illinois' State Energy Plan was approved. Applications for approximately \$100 million in funds for local governments, non-profits, and the private sector are now available through eight grant programs. The potential for residential projects is limited, which may constrain the role of the Council for this program beyond information sharing. The applications are due in October.

Workforce Development:

Formula grants have been distributed to the nine Workforce Investment Boards serving the seven county region. The funds are flowing through the existing Workforce Investment Act programs for adult training, dislocated worker training, and youth programs. There are several competitive grant programs open, including the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's (DCEO) sector based initiative which will allocate 10% of Illinois' \$165 million stimulus Workforce Investment Act funds to programs that focus on either healthcare/healthcare IT, manufacturing, transportation/distribution/logistics, or green initiatives. In addition, \$750 million in nationally competitive grants are being administered by the Department of Labor. The focus of these funds is on green jobs, health care, and other high growth and emerging industries. The ARRA Coordinating Council is exploring what types of collaboration may assist applications submitted from the Chicago area as well as the development of strategies to build sustainable programs. In addition, the Council is considering opportunities to connect the populations served by the housing and weatherization ARRA programs to worker training resources.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP):

HPRP will provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. Illinois will receive \$70 million in funding; an existing formula is used to make direct allocations to county and municipal governments. Grants are approved on an ongoing basis by the federal agency, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and all are expected to execute in September. Funds may be sub-allocated to local governments and private nonprofit organizations that provide homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services, utilizing either a formula allocation or Request for Proposal process. It is likely ARRA HPRP funds will be used to fill the existing backlog, especially since there were significant cuts in the State budget to homeless prevention funds.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP 1 and 2):

CMAF formed a consortium of local governments and non-profits, known as the Chicago Metropolitan Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 Consortium (CMNSPC) for the purposes of implementing the NSP2 Program in partnership with other units of general local government, which include: the municipalities of Aurora, Berwyn, Cicero, Elgin, and Joliet; the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kendall, Lake,

and Will; and the Illinois Housing Development Authority. Additionally, the consortium includes Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago as a non-profit member. The application was submitted July 17th and requests a grant amount of \$78.7 million (see full application here:

http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/policy/housing.aspx?ekmense=c580fa7b_8_18_398_5)

December 1st is the last day for HUD to notify selected applicants. The ARRA Coordinating Council will help identify and support coordination between the NSP activities and other resources and programs.

CMAP also continues to coordinate the efforts of recipients of NSP1 program funds. CMAP has created and managed the NSP Coordinating Council and maintains an active NSP listserv. The NSP Coordinating Council includes all of the jurisdictions receiving NSP1 dollars and local HUD Community Planning and Development staff. The NSP Coordinating Council, which meets quarterly, provides a platform to share information, exchange best practices, discuss needed trainings, leverage additional assistance and maximize regional impact. Additionally, CMAP, in partnership with Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, is developing a best-practice manual for addressing foreclosures. The manual will include model ordinances and case studies from around the region of communities taking measures to address vacant buildings as a result of foreclosures.

Weatherization:

The State of Illinois was awarded \$240 million to weatherize homes of households that meet income criteria; the funds are distributed by formula to each county's Community Action Agency (CAA). The amount provided to CAAs through the stimulus is a significant increase to previous years' funding. There are numerous opportunities to link these funds to other programs, including NSP and EECBG. The Council is working with the administering entities of these funds to identify how to assist in establishing linkages and coordination to promote the success of this program.

CMAP Recovery Blog

CMAP created a recovery blog, "Regional Response to ARRA"

(<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/recovery>) in February to track major developments relating to stimulus funding coming to the region. The blog is updated two to three times a week with information relevant to grant recipients and residents of the area alike. As an aspect of the Council's project of information sharing, the blog allows us to post information on new grant opportunities, upcoming deadlines, news items, and the best ways to track stimulus money coming to the region. Updates on the Regional ARRA Coordinating Council's activities will also be included on this blog, as well as helpful data and analyses. Our blog reaches out to the larger CMAP audience with mentions in CMAP's Weekly Update emails.